

Application No.: 09/755714

Case No.: 55350US014

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 2, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 19 with the words "The portable RFID reader" and ends on line 31 with the words "is provided as background information" with the following amended paragraph:

The portable RFID reader is preferably a handheld reader of the type shown in Figure 1 at 100, and may include a display 102, a power source, a database, a processor 103, an antenna 104, and other components such as a keypad 106, infrared receiver and/or transmitter, function key(s) (as shown in Figure 2 at 140), or other method of providing information to the reader.

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Alternatively, some of those components may not be included, or may be tethered to a handheld reader. For example, the power source may be connected to the RFID reader by a power cord as shown in Figure 3 at 108, which can reduce the weight of the RFID reader itself. Reference number 108 could also represent or include a data transmission line used by the RFID reader to transmit and/or receive information. Other portable RFID readers are shown in Figures 2, 3, 5 and 6. The functions of each of the components of the portable RFID reader is evident, but the following overview is provided as background information.

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On page 3, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 1 with the words "The display" and ends on line 13 with the words "user's mobility" with the following amended paragraph:

The display may be selected from among suitable displays, and may be a screen that can be activated by the touch of a user's finger, or with a stylus, or both. The display may be part of a handheld computer, or personal digital assistant, of the type available from Palm Computing of Santa Clara, California, or at www.palm.com under the designation "Palm V," for example, or may be separate from the processor. The power source should be sufficient to power the unit (including the display, the processor, and any sound or light generation source of the type described below), preferably without adding so much weight as to make the unit cumbersome. The power source could be a battery, and preferably a rechargeable battery, and can as described above be integral with the RFID reader or connected via a power cord to, for example, a power source that can be worn around a user's waist. The RFID reader could even be powered by standard alternating current, although the cord might interfere with the user's mobility.

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On page 4 and 5, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 10 of page 4 with the words "The portion" and ends on line 3 of page 5 with the words "are also possible" with the following amended paragraph:

(A3)

The display portion of the user interface for the RFID reader can include, for operations related to scanning the materials in a given area, a first (preferably graphical) component that illustrates the area or its boundaries, and a second (preferably graphical) component that illustrates a location within that area, such as where within that area a specified material is located, or should be located. Either or both of the components of the user interface may include characters (such as a letter or symbol (a "*", for example)) or graphics (such as a bar, a box, or a picture of a book), for example, or an illuminated or darkened portion of the display, or a flashing area, or the like. For example, if the scanned area is a single book shelf, the first component of the user interface may be a longitudinal bar graphic such as that shown in Figure 4 at 110, representing the interrogation area 111, and the second component may be a highlighted portion of the bar as shown at 112. If the scanned area consists of multiple book shelves, as shown in Figure 2, then the first component of the user interface may be a graphical representation of multiple book shelves as shown at 130, and the second component may be a highlighted portion 132 of that graphic. The first component of the user interface could alternatively be a series of numbered or otherwise designated icons, and the second component could be a variation in the display of one of the icons of interest that distinguishes it from the rest of the icons. Various combinations of the foregoing are also possible.

On page 8 and 9, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 27 of page 8 with the words "The type" and ends on line 3 of page 9 with the words "available from Metrowerks or on the internet at www.metrowerks.com" with the following amended paragraph:

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The type of programming necessary to effectuate the features of the inventive user interface will vary depending on the kind of computer used to control that interface. In the context of a palmtop computer such as the Palm computer referenced earlier, the programming may be done as follows. The most common language used to program the Palm computer is the C language. The most common tools used to program the Palm computer are Metrowerks Codewarrior (editor, compiler, linker), Metrowerks Constructor (for designing graphical displays) and the Palm OS Emulator (for running Palm OS applications on a PC or Mac). Further information about Metrowerks products, which are available from Metrowerks, Inc. of Austin, Texas, is available from Metrowerks or on the internet at www.metrowerks.com.
